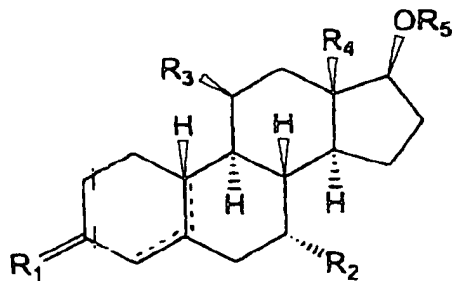


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In the Claims

1. (Original) A compound of the structural formula:

(I)



wherein

R₁ is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen,

(C₁₋₆) alkyl, or (C₁₋₆) acyl;

R₂ is (C₂₋₃)alkyl, isopropyl, (C₂₋₃)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C₂₋₃) 1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R₂ is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C₁₋₂)alkyl or halogen;

R₃ is hydrogen, (C₁₋₂)alkyl, or ethenyl;

R₄ is (C₁₋₂) alkyl;

R₅ is hydrogen, or (C₁₋₁₅)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds;

with the proviso that the compound is not (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one (7 α -ethyl-19-nortestosterone) or a

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carboxylic ester thereof, and is not (7 α ,17 β)-17-(acetyloxy)-7-propylestr-4-en-3-one (7 α -propyl-19-nortestosterone acetate).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₂ is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is oxo, R₃ is hydrogen, and the dotted lines indicate a Δ^4 double bond.

5. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, wherein R² is ethyl or ethenyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of (7 α ,17 β)-7,13 -Diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one and (7 α ,17 β)-7-Ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

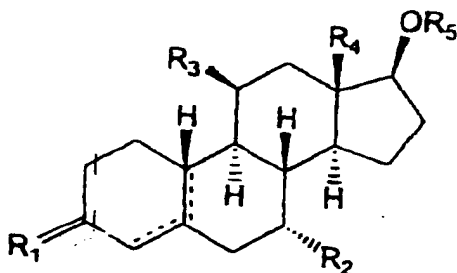
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and ~~comprising, as a~~
~~medicinally active agent,~~ a steroid compound, as a medicinally
active agent, satisfying ~~the general~~ formula I

(I)



wherein

R₁ is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen,
(C₁₋₆)alkyl, or (C₁₋₆)acyl;

R₂ is (C₂₋₃)alkyl, isopropyl, (C₂₋₃)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl,
1,2-propadienyl, or (C₂₋₃)1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted
by halogen; or R₂ is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each
optionally substituted by (C₁₋₂)alkyl or halogen;

R₃ is hydrogen, (C₁₋₂)alkyl, or ethenyl;

R₄ is (C₁₋₂) alkyl;

R₅ is hydrogen, or (C₁₋₁₅)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

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C3 9. (Currently Amended) A The pharmaceutical composition ~~formulation~~ according to claim 8, wherein R² is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

10. (Currently Amended) A The pharmaceutical composition ~~formulation~~ according to claim 9, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one, (7 α ,17 β)-7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

11. (Currently Amended) A The pharmaceutical composition ~~formulation~~ according to claim 8 suitable for oral administration.

12. (Canceled)

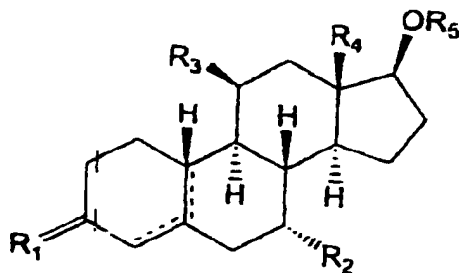
13. (Withdrawn) A kit for male contraception comprising a progestagen and an androgen, wherein the androgen is a compound according to claim 1.

C4 14. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of androgen insufficiency, comprising:

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administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an androgen, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the androgen is a steroid compound satisfying ~~the general~~ formula I

(I)



wherein

R_1 is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, or (C₁₋₆)acyl;

R_2 is (C₂₋₃)alkyl, isopropyl, (C₂₋₃)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C₂₋₃)1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R_2 is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C₁₋₂)alkyl or halogen;

R_3 is hydrogen, (C₁₋₂)alkyl, or ethenyl;

R_4 is (C₁₋₂) alkyl;

R_5 is hydrogen, or (C₁₋₁₅)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

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15. (Currently Amended) A The method of treatment according to claim 14, wherein R₂ is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method of treatment according to claim 15, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one, (7 α ,17 β)-7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and (7 α ,17 β)-7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.